

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Library Board of Directors
May 20, 2025.

The hybrid meeting of the Library Board of Directors was held on Tuesday May 20, 2025 at the Advanced Learning Library with the following present in person: Ms. Sarah Balderas, Ms. Lauren Hirsh, Mr. Kurt Oswald, Mr. Chuck Schmidt, Ms. Susie Ternes, and Mr. Jonathan Winkler. The following attended virtually: Ms. Rose Mary Frame, Ms. Brandi Newry, and Ms. Karyn Shorter.

Call to Order

Lauren Hirsh called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m., a quorum not being present.

Staff Presentation

Collection Development Division Manager Sarah Kittrell presented information on the composition of and outlook for the materials budget. Funding sources include the City of Wichita general fund, grants, the WPL Foundation, and memorial donations. Though a percentage goes to reduce hold backlogging for certain titles in both physical and electronic formats, needs press much more heavily for the latter, owing to unforgiving license terms for libraries. Only bestsellers and a few customer requests can be purchased with the funding now available. The library spends approximately \$2,000 each week to keep the hold request ratio hovering at about 18-20 holds per electronic copy of popular titles. Staff would like to reduce this figure, as it now equates to an approximate one-year wait for a prospective reader joining the hold queue at the back. However, to come close to meeting demand would entail doubling the amount currently spent on e-materials.

Susie Ternes, Rose Mary Frame, Brandi Newry, and Karyn Shorter arrived, bringing the meeting to a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda

Chuck Schmidt moved (Oswald) to approve the agenda as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting held on April 15, 2025 were presented. Kurt Oswald moved (Schmidt) to approve the minutes as included in board packets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Finance Committee Report

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the April 2025 finance report and supplemental bills in the following amounts: General Fund bills of \$930,758.27; Grant Fund bills of \$1,027.24; and Gift bills of \$722.57, for a total of \$932,208.08. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the 2025 State Aid Grant as presented by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck Schmidt moved to approve the annual McNaughton subscription agreement for the 2025-2026 term for \$22,380 and to approve the Library's subscription to Reference Solutions for \$12,500. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Committee Report

Jonathan Winkler reported that the last meeting had been informational only due to a lack of a quorum. Committee members discussed potential service changes that may need to be made to enhance cost recovery and focus staff resource more narrowly on the literacy mission.

Planning & Facilities Committee Report

Lauren Hirsh reported that the committee discussed the budget planning process, considering the city may face budget cuts. On May 31 there will be a grand reopening ceremony at the Angelou Branch Library. The Alford Branch Library will close June 3-6 to allow installation of shelving and other fixtures to complete the remodel of the public space.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Kurt Oswald reported that the advocacy toolkits are now available on the library's website in the Board of Directors section. This document will be updated as information changes. Yard signs showing support for the library are now being printed and will be available for board members to collect at the June board meeting.

Special Committee Reports

Friends of the Library – Susan Byer reported that the volunteer luncheon was well attended. T-shirt sales have been going well and plans are being made for Friends of the Library pop-up tables at Library events.

Library Foundation - Kourtney Carson reported that the Library Day of Giving brought in approximately \$15,000 in donations. The Foundation continues to work on rebranding, with a new logo as well as a new look and URL for the website.

Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) – No report.

Director of Libraries Report

Director Nix reported that work on the budget is including efforts across all of City government, with department directors coming together to choose the resource commitments that will benefit the community the most. The library has also received a grant from the United Way to hire support staff to bolster Summer Reading Program efforts.

All board members are invited to attend the Angelou grand opening on May 31, 2025.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be June 17, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Nix